

-9-

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 30, 2006 in which claims 1-23 were pending, claims 1-4, 6-10, 15-18 and 20-22 were rejected, and claims 5, 11-14, 19 and 23 were objected to. With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 11, 15 and 18 are amended. Claims 2, 3, 5, 16, 17 and 19-23 are canceled. New claims 24-26 are added. Claims 1, 4, 6-15 and 18 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Abstract of the Disclosure was objected to due to a typographical error. The Examiner's identification of this error is appreciated. Also in the Office Action, Applicant was encouraged to amend the Title, Abstract and Summary to bring them into harmony with any amendments made to the independent claims. With this Amendment, the Title, Abstract and Summary are amended to be more descriptive of the invention claimed in the amended independent claims. The amendment to the Abstract also eliminates the typographical error. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure be withdrawn.

In section 5 of the Office Action, claims 2, 16 and 21 were objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. With this Amendment, claims 2, 16 and 21 are canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection to the claims be withdrawn.

In section 6 of the Office Action, claim 15 was objected to because of an informality caused by a clerical error. With this Amendment, claim 15 is amended to correct this informality. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 15 be withdrawn.

In section 7 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 15-18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chng et al. (2002/0101675). In section 9 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Chng et al. in view of Dobbek (6,535,995). However, in section 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5, 11-14, 19 and 23 contained allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any

-10-

intervening claim. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

With this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate limitations from objected to claim 5 and intervening claim 3. Specifically, independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitation "wherein the virtual track numbers have a non-continuous monotonic order as the head and physical track number pairs are sequentially traversed in the serpentine track accessing format." (Emphasis added) Also, claim 4 is amended to recite that the "non-continuous monotonic order" is a "non-continuous monotonically increasing order". Since it has been confirmed in the Office Action that these limitations are not taught in the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 4 and 6-10 are in condition for allowance.

Also with this Amendment, objected to dependent claim 11 is amended to be in independent form, substantially including the limitations of its base claim (claim 1) as originally filed. It is respectfully submitted that now independent claim 11, along with dependent claims 12-14 and 24, are in condition for allowance. Also, dependent claims 12-14 and 24 are believed to contain additional limitations which are neither taught nor suggested in the cited references, providing additional bases of allowability.

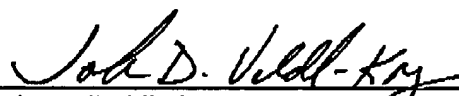
Also with this Amendment, independent claim 15 is amended to incorporate limitations from objected to claim 19 and intervening claim 17. Specifically, independent claim 15 is amended to include the limitation a "translation engine configured to obtain the plurality of head and physical track number pairs in the serpentine track accessing format, and to map each of the plurality of head and physical track number pairs to a corresponding unique virtual track number by assigning the unique virtual track number in a manner which results in the virtual track numbers being in a non-continuous monotonic order as the head and physical track number pairs are sequentially traversed in the serpentine track accessing format." Also, claim 18 is amended to recite that the "non-continuous monotonic order" is a "non-continuous monotonically increasing order". Since it has been confirmed in the Office Action that these limitations are not taught in the cited references, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 15 and dependent claim 18, 25 and 26 are in condition for allowance.

-11-

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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